

In-text citations

Following are some guidelines for in-text citations using the MLA format. The most important thing to remember is that you must give credit to any source that you consult for your paper. If you look at any article or website to get ideas for your paper, you **MUST** cite it or else you are plagiarizing.

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing means that you look at a source, learn some information, and put that information in your own words. You do not use quotation marks in this case, but you must cite the source. When paraphrasing, I suggest closing the book or covering the article you consult before you start typing. If you don't have the source open in front of you, you will have an easier time putting the information in your own words.

Example:

Alexander Stephens argued that the Confederacy had been founded to protect slavery and white supremacy and that those two ideas formed the "cornerstone" of the new nation (Stephens).

If you have several sentences in a row containing information gained from a source, you can simply cite at the end of the paragraph.

Direct quotations

If you borrow more than three words in a row you must put the phrase or sentence in direct quotations and cite.

Example:

Alexander Stephens argued that the Confederacy's "cornerstone rests, upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery, subordination to the superior race, is his natural and moral condition" (Stephens).

Using quotations

You are allowed to use direct quotations but a majority of your paper should reflect your own critical thinking. Do not simply string direct quotations together for most of a paragraph. Also, do not include more than one block quotation to simply fill up space. Instead, use paraphrasing and your own analysis more than direct quotations.

Works Cited Page

Example of document from *American Yawp*:

Stephens, Alexander. "Alexander Stephens on Slavery and the Confederate Constitution, 1861," *American Yawp*. Stanford University Press, <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/the-civil-war/alexander-stephens-on-slavery-and-the-confederate-constitution-1861/>, accessed August 17, 2018.